



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/774,658

02/05/2004

Robert G. Cole

2003-0225

8814

83811 7590 04/15/2009
AT & T LEGAL DEPARTMENT - WT
PATENT DOCKETING
ROOM 2A-207, ONE AT& T WAY
BEDMINSTER, NJ 07921

EXAMINER

POLLACK, MELVIN H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2445

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/15/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/774,658	Applicant(s) COLE ET AL.	
	Examiner MELVIN H. POLLACK	Art Unit 2445	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>see attached office action</u> . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 02 January 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. An analysis of the arguments is provided below.
2. The 112 rejection is withdrawn in light of the remarks. The specification is sufficient to redefine the term.
3. Applicant argues that Bradley does not expressly disclose charging degradations such that an administrator may identify a particular router that is problematic, and that this information is input and output at the client side rather than the server side (Pp. 8-9), wherein the user is notified as to which devices are the cause of the breach (P. 9) and further wherein the degradation (and related path measurements) is differentiated from cost measurement (P. 10).
4. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that all the features stated above upon which applicant relies are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). There is no claim language related to the usage of degradation tracking, the client side or server side inputs or outputs or alarms, or the parameters and definition of measured data. As a result, the claims are drawn towards their broadest reasonable interpretations.
5. Even if these features were present, Bradley would still read over them. Applicant misreads the usage of SLAs, which form the target values against which the measurements are compared using SLM server (110). Furthermore, applicant seems to confuse administrator client

Art Unit: 2445

116 with end user clients 104-108 (the customer does not establish parameters or SLA agreements on his own). In this view, it becomes clear that routers (devices 118-122) are measured by the server (col. 6, line 45 - col. 7, line 5) such that the degradations are reported (col. 8, line 50 – col. 10, line 20; col. 32, lines 35-55) such that the non-performing device may be determined without the user focusing on a single device (col. 33, line 5-40).

6. Bradley, meanwhile, goes further in determining degradations for a particular router, wherein the costs are related to path measurements (col. 9, line 5-15; forwarding costs used for load balancing).

7. Therefore, the rejections are maintained for the reasons above. This rejection is final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley et al. (7,082,463) in view of Basturk (7,111,074).

10. Bradley teaches a method and system (abstract) of determining gateway performance and SLA information (col. 1, line 1 – col. 5, line 15; col. 36, line 55 – col. 68, line 20) wherein a management server connected to router devices (col. 5, lines 15-30) and controlled via a web interface (col. 5, lines 30-35) wherein path measurements are collected and stored within a matrix (col. 5, line 35 – col. 6, line 10; col. 6, line 65 – col. 7, line 5). Test result overlaps are tracked, as are start and end times (col. 8, line 40 – col. 9, line 30). The system tracks threshold

Art Unit: 2445

and problem information (col. 9, line 30 – col. 21, line 30), including R-Factor equivalent VoIP voice quality data (col. 21, line 30 – col. 24, line 60), and of data manually entered into the matrix (col. 24, line 60 – col. 31, line 15) and reported as a source x destination router report (col. 31, line 10 – col. 34, line 50, esp. col. 33, lines 30-35 and col. 34, lines 5-15).

11. Bradley teaches at the very least tracking a number of said degradation over a period of time for two routers forming a path, wherein the degradation of each specific router would be determinable by one of ordinary skill in the art with a predictable result that is obvious to try. Bradley does not expressly disclose tracking for a specific router per se. Basturk teaches a method and system (abstract) of making quality measurements on a path in a VoIP network (col. 1, line 1 – col. 4, line 65; col. 9, line 50 – col. 10, line 65) wherein a particular router is charged and tracked (col. 5, line 20 – col. 6, line 30) such that the tracked degradation is provided to underperforming routers (col. 7, line 25 – col. 9, line 50). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added Basturk to Bradley in order to improve load balancing in a case of multiple paths (col. 2, lines 20-30).

12. For claim 9, Bradley teaches several threshold values, including 75 (col. 32, lines 35-55), but does not expressly declare 70 as a threshold value.

13. Examiner takes Official Notice (see MPEP § 2144.03) that a changed threshold in a computer networking environment was well known in the art at the time the invention was made. Both models are standard techniques equally effective in determining a threshold crossing. The substitution would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention as the particular threshold value is irrelevant, as each is a standard technique used by

Art Unit: 2445

the ordinary artisan and both have been recognized to provide a good estimate. Therefore, the motivation to change the threshold value remains personal preference.

14. The Applicant is entitled to traverse any/all official notice taken in this action according to MPEP § 2144.03. However, MPEP § 2144.03 further states "See also *In re Boon*, 439 F.2d 724, 169 USPQ 231 (CCPA 1971) (a challenge to the taking of judicial notice must contain adequate information or argument to create on its face a reasonable doubt regarding the circumstances justifying the judicial notice)." Specifically, *In re Boon*, 169 USPQ 231, 234 states "as we held in *Ahlert*, an applicant must be given the opportunity to challenge either the correctness of the fact asserted or the notoriety or repute of the reference cited in support of the assertion. We did not mean to imply by this statement that a bald challenge, with nothing more, would be all that was needed". Further note that 37 CFR § 1.671(c)(3) states "Judicial notice means official notice". Thus, a traversal by the Applicant that is merely "a bald challenge, with nothing more" will be given very little weight.

15. The specific value of the threshold does not patentably distinguish the claimed system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide any threshold value in the system taught by Bradley because the subjective interpretation of the optimal threshold value does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

Conclusion

16. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

Art Unit: 2445

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELVIN H. POLLACK whose telephone number is (571)272-3887. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571) 272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. H. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 2445
06 April 2009

/Larry D Donaghue/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454